



# Nongame News



## "GO WILD" at Tax Time

Winter 1985

Dedicated readers of "Nongame News" are fully aware of the meaning of the phrase "GO WILD at tax time, check-off for wildlife". For the benefit of the uninitiated, tax line 37B on the NJ Income Tax Form is the lifeline for all endangered and nongame species projects and programs in the state. Simply translated, it means that N.J. residents through their donations via the income tax form are the sole supporters of this important, and otherwise unfunded work.

We're counting on you to let your friends and relatives know that they can check-off and donate as little as \$2 or as much as \$10.00 through their tax form. If a refund is due, the amount you check-off will be deducted from the total. If you owe the state money, the amount you check-off will be added to the total. If you wish to make a larger donation, send a check directly to the Endangered and Nongame Species Program at CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625.

You are entitled to deduct your contribution from your Federal income tax. If you "check-off" in tax year 1983 (last year), take a deduction on this year's Federal income tax. If you check-off this year, take a deduction on next years' Federal income tax.

What will your dollar pay for? Close to 40% of the budget each year is allocated for endangered species restoration

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## "ADOPT AN EAGLE" PROGRAM TAKES FLIGHT

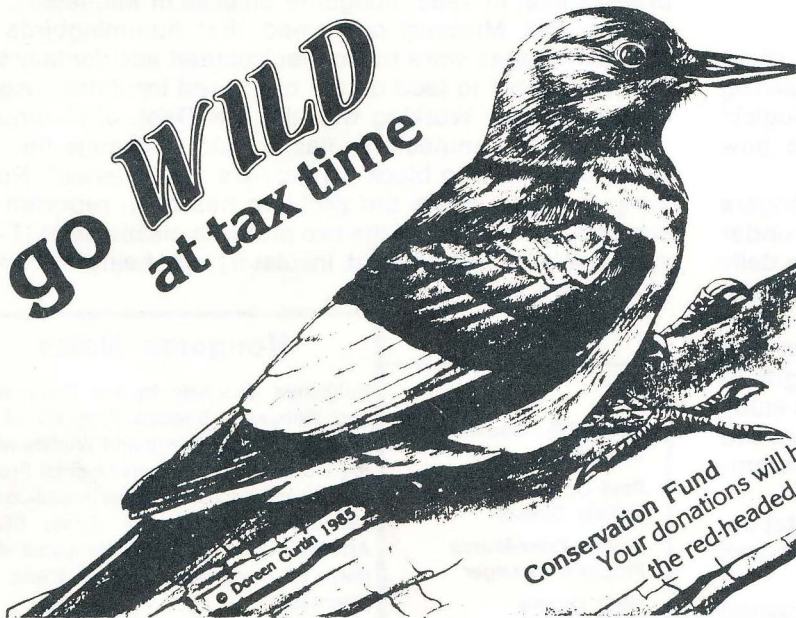
Students of the Haddonfield Middle School, Haddonfield, N.J. have become the first school group in the United States to participate in "Adopt an Eagle" program, sponsored by the Endangered and Nongame Species Program. Over 400 youngsters in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades conducted a pledge-sponsored run, the "Mayflower Mile" at Centennial Field in Haddonfield on November 21, 1984. The youngsters raised over \$3,500.00, to cover the acquisition of an eaglet from Manitoba, Canada. Subsequently, the eaglet will be released in suitable habitat in Cumberland County.

The Haddonfield Middle School's "Adopt an Eagle" Program is sponsored by the Student Council, under the leadership of teachers Cliff Daniels and Sally Holland, who stress that this program directly involves the youngsters in the management of the state's natural resources. Students also gain an appreciation for our environment, and help with the protection of our national symbol—the endangered American Bald Eagle.

The "Adopt an Eagle" Program has been so successful in the Haddonfield Middle School that 90 percent of the

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**go WILD**  
at tax time



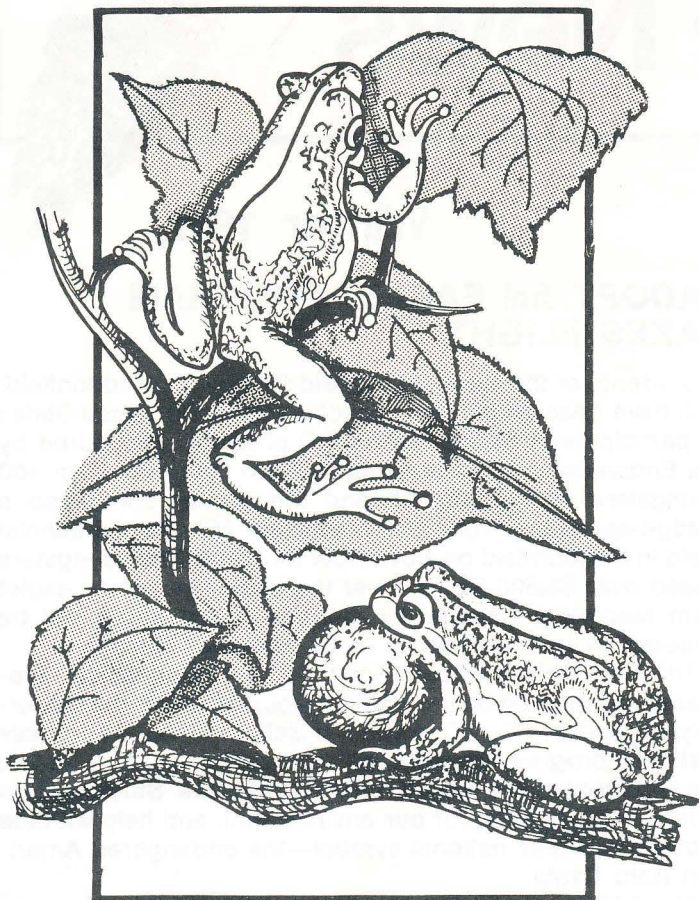
Conservation Fund  
Your donations will be used to help the red-headed woodpecker, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and pine barrens treefrog.

Help New Jersey's nongame wildlife ... and earn a tax deduction at the same time  
Look for the Endangered and Nongame Wildlife on Line 37B of your state income tax form.  
to help New Jersey's non-hunted wildlife like bald eagle, peregrine falcon, wood turtle and pine barrens treefrog.

**check-off for  
wildlife**

## Endangered and Nongame Species Program





## PINE BARRENS TREEFROG REPORT AVAILABLE

The final report for the 1984 Pine Barrens Treefrog study entitled "Adult Home Range of the Pine Barrens Treefrog (*Hyla andersoni*) and the Physical, Chemical, and Ecological Characteristics of Its Preferred Breeding Ponds" is now available.

During the spring of 1984, Dr. Peter Morin of Rutgers University and Joseph Freda of Penn State University, under contract with the ENSP, conducted a study to observe daily movements and establish the post-breeding home range of New Jersey's endangered Pine Barrens Treefrog. In New Jersey, the major threat to this tiny treefrog is habitat loss or alteration resulting from residential, industrial and agricultural development. The information obtained from this study will be used in determining the minimum area of upland habitat which needs to be protected and the critical parameters of its breeding habitat.

The report provides information about critical habitat requirements and water chemistry of the preferred shrub-bog breeding habitat.

Requests for copies of the final report can be obtained by sending \$3.00 to:

Dr. Norbert P. Psuty, Director  
Center for Coastal and Environmental Studies  
Rutgers—The State University of New Jersey  
Doolittle Hall, Busch Campus  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA COVER MAPS DEVELOPED

Vegetative cover maps were created for three selected state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) in north, central and south Jersey that contain endangered or threatened species. The creation of these maps will aid in cooperative habitat management planning within the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife to benefit both game and nongame species.

Vegetation was classified on the three WMA's using a system developed during the past year. Classification was done from aerial photographs and field surveys. Boundaries were delineated and each area labeled with the classification system codes on acetate overlays.

## WILDLIFE WORK AVAILABLE

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program will hire interns this coming spring, summer and fall for projects concerning several species of birds. The period of employment for each position will be about 8 weeks and the dates will vary with the project. Interns will be assigned to projects on the bald eagle, osprey, peregrine, colonial waterbirds and woodland hawks.

Interns will assume general research and management responsibilities depending on the program, and be assigned a particular problem dealing with that species. Living quarters will be provided on several of the projects. Total pay will be approximately \$1200.00. If interested please send resume to Larry Niles, ENSP, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, CN 400, Trenton, NJ.

## "HUMMER ZAPPERS"

North Central Plastics, Inc., the nation's largest manufacturer of electrical fencing systems, announced that it will make a change in the coloring of insulators in its Red Snap'r product line. In 1983, nongame officials in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Missouri confirmed that hummingbirds and northern orioles were being electrocuted accidentally when they attempted to feed on the bright red insulators used on electric fences. Working with the MN Dept. of Natural Resources, the manufacturer has agreed to change the color of the insulators to black "in nature's best interest". People living in areas where the problem has been reported who currently have either of the two problem plastic parts (T-Post Insulator and Round Post Insulator) are being advised to paint them another color.

## Nongame News

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Director

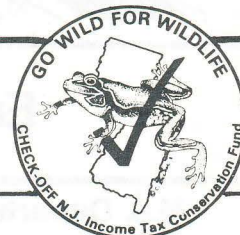
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# Project WILD News

The education program designed to help teachers "assist learners of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment upon which all life depends" has been very well received by teachers and other educators. This fall, 9 workshops were held in which 184 educators participated. Workshops help educators learn how to use WILD activities in existing subjects and programs to teach concepts about wildlife and help kids learn how to think.

Workshops are being scheduled for 1985 at present. Marine Sciences Consortium (in Seaville), Atlantic County Park, Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, and Brookdale College have workshops planned for the coming spring.

The program has received a lot of attention by the media, which has sparked considerable interest in the program. The materials were designed by educators to be balanced and objective and provide information from a variety of viewpoints to allow students to make their own decisions about value-sensitive questions.

Each of the 32 states involved in Project WILD have opportunities to offer suggestions for revisions on a yearly basis. The revision process will offer an opportunity for those concerned to offer constructive suggestions for improvement of factual accuracy, balance and objectivity in the spirit of producing the best possible wildlife education materials.

Educators, administrators and parents are invited to learn more about the program by contacting PROJECT WILD, Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center, RD 1, Box 389, Oxford, NJ 07863.

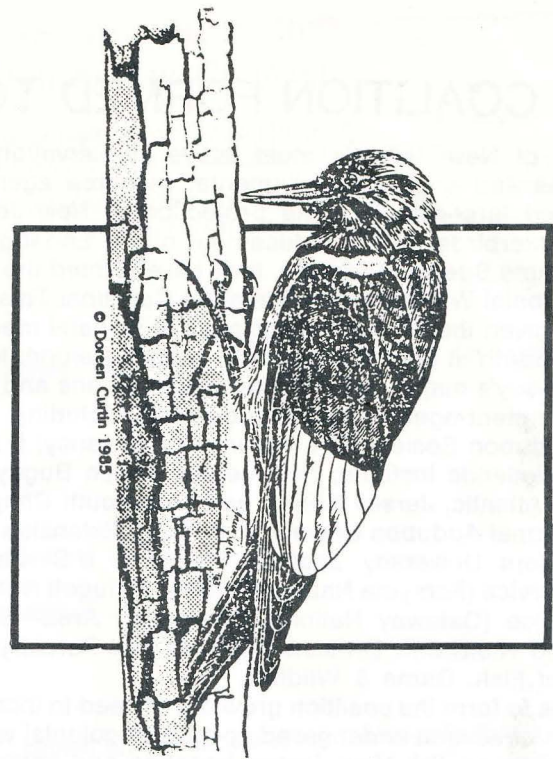
## GRASSLAND BIRD SURVEY TAKES FLIGHT

The New Jersey grassland bird survey has yielded results which may help to save habitat and animals in this state. The study was begun in the spring of 1984 by the Endangered and Nongame Species Program with help from NJ Audubon contractors.

In some cases, as with the endangered Upland Sandpiper, results were disappointing—only one individual was found from two hundred and ninety-eight survey stops. On the other end of the scale, the non-endangered meadowlark was found in much higher numbers. At least one individual was seen on each of the hundred and sixty-three stops. The Bobolink was also found in fairly high numbers. Not all of the Bobolinks observed nested in New Jersey, however. Many of the Bobolinks were, in fact, just migrating through.

Of special concern, aside from the Upland Sandpiper, are three species of sparrows. One of these, the Vesper Sparrow, is endangered in New Jersey. The other two, the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Savannah Sparrow are threatened. None of the sparrows were detected in any impressive numbers. Where found, they were most common in the highland region of the state.

The Endangered Species Program will continue to survey the open areas of New Jersey for grassland birds. When a clearer picture of the status of these birds is seen, efforts will be made to help them from becoming extinct in New Jersey.



## RED HEADED WOODPECKER

The red-headed woodpecker was chosen to be the emblem for the 1985 tax check-off promotion because of its striking coloration and relative anonymity among NJ residents.

This large woodpecker is about the same size (8½ to 9½") as a hairy woodpecker. The adult is a spectacular combination of red, white, and black plumage. Its entire head is bright red while the shoulders, back, and wings are jet black. A large white patch on the wings distinguishes this woodpecker and the belly is also white.

The red-headed woodpecker is a permanent resident of the central and eastern United States, breeding as far north as the Great Lakes. Its preferred habitat is open groves of large trees, and it is also found in tracts of burned-over forests where live trees are scattered amongst plentiful tree snags. The red-headed woodpecker does not hesitate to live near civilization if large tree snags for nesting sites and beetles, borers, and grubs are available.

The red-headed woodpecker is threatened in N.J. It is restricted mostly to the farm country of Sussex and Somerset Counties. Some burned-over areas in Lebanon and Greenwood Forests, Ocean County, harbor pairs of this species. A few pairs also occur in the large timber trees in the Lakewood, Cape May, and Middle Delaware River areas. Once very plentiful throughout the State, this species declined greatly between the 1940's and 1970's.

Efforts to preserve groves of big trees and/or burned-over areas in the pines with tree snags will help maintain feeding and nesting habitat for this bird. An annual census of these birds is kept by Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. Many municipalities have ordinances requiring tree permits before removing trees to allow for development. Such regulations should consider the need for providing and retaining habitats for this species in seemingly useless dead trees. On State land, red-headed woodpecker habitat can be managed by retaining standing dead trees instead of permitting them all to be cut for firewood. (Excerpted from "Endangered and Threatened Species of N.J.")



# COALITION FORMED TO AID COLONIAL WATERBIRDS

Several of New Jersey's most active conservation organizations and several governmental resource agencies have joined forces to facilitate protection of New Jersey colonial waterbirds. At the inducement of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program, they have formed the New Jersey Colonial Waterbird Conservation Coalition. This was the name given the informal association at its natal meeting held last month at Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Many of New Jersey's major conservation organizations and several government agencies are represented, including: New Jersey Audubon Society; The Nature Conservancy; Littoral Society; Wetlands Institute; New Jersey Beach Buggy Association; Atlantic, Jersey Shore, and Monmouth Chapters of the National Audubon Society; Sea Grant Extension Service; Rutgers University Ecology Program; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge); National Park Service (Gateway National Recreation Area—Sandy Hook); and N.J.D.E.P. Division of Parks and Forestry and Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife.

The idea to form the coalition grew out of need to increase protection of several endangered species of colonial waterbirds nesting on the New Jersey beaches and saltmarsh islands. These species; the least tern, black skimmer, and piping plover are endangered in New Jersey primarily as a result of ever-increasing human use of the beach habitat on which they nest.

For the past several years, the Endangered and Nongame Species Program has been working to ensure that both man and birds can share the beaches. Intensive management efforts including fencing, posting, and patrolling have been successful in reducing depredations to nesting birds. In some areas rats and other predators are controlled to reduce the unnaturally high predation. Recently, Dr. Joanna

Burger of Rutgers University has been experimenting with the use of decoys to attract terns to previously-used sites.

As a result, populations have stabilized or even increased in most areas. Unfortunately, the pressures which make protective management necessary continue to increase, and although populations may be holding their own, management efforts must be maintained and expanded. One of the main goals of the New Jersey Colonial Waterbird Conservation Coalition will be to mobilize a volunteer force to erect protective fences and signs and to patrol active colonies. Many of the member organizations and agencies which form the Coalition frequently hear the question from concerned conservationists, "how can I help?" The association hopes that it can provide an accessible and productive way for people to become involved in protecting some of New Jersey's vanishing wildlife.

The member groups will also work to foster cooperation between conservation organizations and municipalities and other landowners along the coast to increase public awareness and seek local cooperation for fencing and posting efforts. Slide programs, informational brochures, and other educational materials will be developed to reach the beach-going public and foster a positive acceptance of management efforts.

If you are interested in becoming involved in any facet of colonial waterbird protection, get in touch with one of the organizations mentioned and let them know you want to help. Any organization desiring to take an active role in protecting New Jersey's colonial waterbirds can join the coalition. Contact any of the organizations associated, c/o N.J. Div. of Fish, Game & Wildlife, Endangered & Nongame Species Program, CN 400, Trenton, N.J. 08625.

## BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, nearly 60 million Americans feed birds. Seems many of us have a desire to bring the natural world into our backyards.

Supplying bird seed to these millions has become big business. Avid bird feeding enthusiasts will tell you that keeping 3-4 feeders stocked throughout the winter can run into big bucks; upwards of \$200.00 per year. Niger thistle, imported from Africa and a favorite of our State Bird, the American goldfinch, can cost more than \$2.00 per pound. If you're going to spend this sort of money on feeding the birds it makes sense to spend it on seeds that the birds will eat and which will provide them with ample nutrition.

Recently, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service completed research on the preferences of several species of birds for various seeds sold commercially as bird feed. Basically, the study found that two types of seeds were preferred by two different groups of birds. White proso millet was selected by the various sparrows and juncos, while oil (black) sunflower was preferred by most other species common at bird feeders (cardinals, chickadees, titmice, grossbeaks, purple finches). A summary of the findings of this study have been published by the National Wildlife Federation in a pamphlet called "Wild Bird Feeding Preferences" which is available on request through the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife—Endangered & Nongame Species Program, CN 400, Trenton, N.J. 08625. (Please send a self

addressed stamped legal size envelope.)

Unfortunately, most pre-packaged bird seed sold in grocery stores is loaded with grains that most birds do not eat. Sunflower, millet, and other seeds are available separately at most feed stores and some garden shops. Many of these stores also have their own mixes which contain more millet and sunflower seed than do most pre-packaged mixes. Several area nature clubs also have bird seed sales which offer high quality seed at very reasonable prices. Profits help support the activities of the particular organization. In particular, most local chapters of the National Audubon Society and New Jersey Audubon Nature Centers have seed sales throughout the fall and winter. Details of these sales, including time and location, are usually carried in your local newspaper.

Presentation of the food is also important as birds differ in how they feed. Some feed almost exclusively above the ground, others feed on the ground, and still others take food wherever they can get it. Conveniently, ground feeding birds are mostly the same species that prefer millet, while birds which are attracted to hanging feeders are those which prefer sunflower.

Feeding birds in the backyard is certainly a fine way to bring wildlife in for a close look, but, can we also take some satisfaction in knowing that we are helping the birds? The answer to this question is not as simple as it may seem.

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## New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

### Sixth Annual Poster and Junior High Essay Contest

New Jersey has been classified as a highly industrialized, urban state. Yet, over half of our lands are parks, forests and open space. New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the country, but we also have an abundance of wildlife.

**WHAT IS WILDLIFE?** Animals that are **not** domesticated. Examples include insects, spiders, birds, fish and mammals. Farm animals and pets are considered domesticated animals. Wildlife comes in many different forms and colors—microscopic size to species of many tons.

**VALUE** Wildlife brings with it a variety of values. Contributions to people and to the environment fall into many categories—aesthetic, economic, intrinsic, recreational and scientific.

Our general theme this year centers on Wildlife in New Jersey. Poster contest rules designate specific themes for specific categories.

#### POSTER CONTEST RULES

##### Entry Levels

Primary (K-3).....	I like wildlife
Intermediate (4-6).....	Wildlife and its habitat
Junior High (7-9).....	Wildlife is all around us
High School (9-12).....	Wildlife, habitat and me
Special Education .....	Wildlife is all around us

(Classifies students in self-contained class)

Entries may be no larger than 20" x 27".

Entries must be original. No copyrighted characters will be eligible.

All entries will become the property of the Department of Environmental Protection. Entries should follow the specific theme and will be judged on originality, presentation, and adherence to theme.

All entries must be received by **March 25, 1985.**

**Submit entries to:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Environmental Awareness & Education Program  
Poster Contest  
CN 408  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Direct any questions to (609) 984-7478.

Posters must be identified on the back, lower left-hand corner: Student's name, address, and phone number  
School name, address, and phone number  
Entry Level

Any posters not so identified will automatically be disqualified upon receipt.

#### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

**THEME:** My responsibilities to wildlife.

All entries must be no more than 500 words, typed double spaced.

Entries should follow the theme and will be judged on originality, technical soundness, organization and content.

**Submit entries to:** New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Environmental Awareness & Education Program  
Junior High Essay Contest  
CN 408  
Trenton, NJ 08625

All entries become the property of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

All entries must be received by **March 25, 1985.**

Place the following information on separate cover sheet: Student's name, address, and phone number  
School name, address, and phone number  
Grade

#### BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING *Continued from Page 4*

There is some evidence that several species may be extending their range northward as a result of winter feeding. Others which normally head south for the winter may be staying behind because of the increase in food availability. Research indicates that birds may not become as dependent upon artificial food supplies as was once thought.

Scientists at the University of Wisconsin are currently investigating the suggestion that winter feeding, by concentrat-

ing birds, may facilitate the spread of disease. So far their findings indicate that only at feeding stations with a very high density of birds is there a problem with diseases. The greatest risk is to ground feeders where the seed may mix with the birds' droppings. So be sure not to spread seed under platform feeders or favorite perching places. Put out only enough seed for one day and sweep the ground feeding area regularly. The safest feeders to use are the tubular feeders since there are no flat surfaces on which droppings

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# Progress on Research/Management Projects

## TIGER SALAMANDER MANAGEMENT

Management efforts to protect the endangered Eastern Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma t. tigrinum*) continued with the establishment of a population on Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area. Egg masses were collected from breeding ponds in the Cape May Court House area that are subject to pollution and filling. Approximately 1,000 eggs were placed in the pond at the Higbee Beach WMA in March 1984. A drift fence with eight pit traps used to capture emerging salamanders was maintained in April. Traps were opened in June and the first salamander was caught on July 3. The greatest one-day emergence was 34, observed on July 8.

A total of 233 salamanders were captured through September 30, 1984. The last salamander captured was on September 29. Salamanders were measured, weighed, branded and then released.

## BLUE-SPOTTED SALAMANDER

Topographical maps and aerial photographs of the Passaic River Basin were examined to identify forested wetlands and upland forests bordering wetlands which are considered potential habitat for blue-spotted salamanders. Only unprotected, private properties with potential salamander habitat were examined since past survey efforts had concentrated on protected private and public lands. Potential areas were identified and subsequently field checked during the early spring and summer.

Fifteen sites were field-checked for the presence of suitable aquatic breeding and terrestrial habitats and the presence of blue-spotted salamanders. Eight additional potential sites were identified but not field checked. Of the fifteen sites surveyed, nine were found to have either inadequate terrestrial habitat or the lack of suitable breeding ponds. Two new locations for blue-spots were identified, but the actual breeding ponds were not confirmed. Two sites contained potential breeding ponds, but no evidence of the salamander. Mosquito ditching seems to be having an impact on the ability of the temporary woodland ponds (potential salamander breeding ponds) to hold water long enough for the completion of the breeding cycle.

High levels of precipitation precluded field surveys in a majority of the potential sites during the optimum survey period (March-June). Further surveys of potential habitats on private properties are needed and recommended because of the potential threat of losing critical habitats to development.

## PEREGRINE FALCON

Continued population growth of the population of peregrine falcons resulted in sixteen sites being occupied by peregrine falcons in 1984. Pairs of falcons were located at twelve of the sixteen sites. The New Jersey recovery goal is the maintenance of eight to ten breeding pairs statewide. Seven new sites were confirmed this year.

Four of the twelve pairs successfully bred. Nine young were produced. An additional seven captive-bred young were introduced through fostering efforts of The Peregrine Fund. Sixteen falcons were raised in 1984 compared with twelve in 1983 and six in 1982.

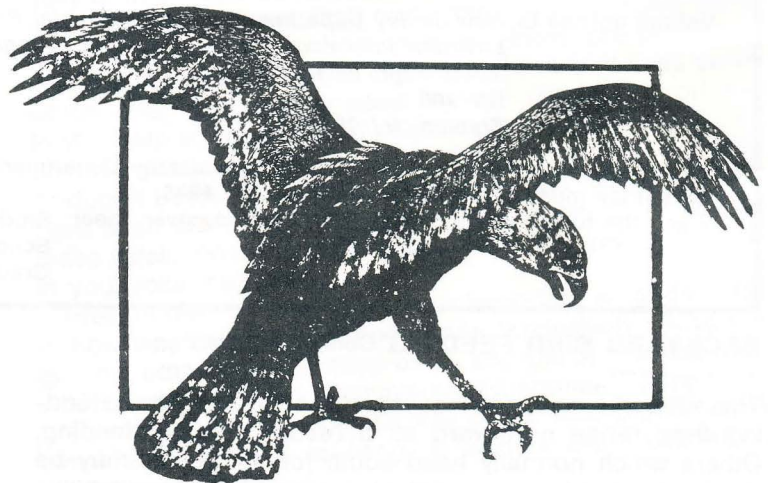
Observations of falcons were made by the staff of the Endangered and Nongame Species Program and The Peregrine Fund throughout the season to determine proper timing for banding, chick fostering and double clutching.

Double-clutching was performed at three sites. The purpose of double-clutching was to provide peregrine chicks of a different genetic heritage to aid the Peregrine Fund's captive breeding program. Under most circumstances, the peregrines from which eggs are taken will re-nest, with no net loss to the pair. Eleven eggs were taken by the Peregrine Fund and incubated. Seven eggs hatched and were used in reintroduction efforts throughout the Northeast. Unhatched eggs were analyzed and low levels of DDE (3.7 to 6.8 ppm) and PCB (4.8 to 6.8 ppm) were found from eggs taken from Barnegat. One of the three pairs successfully raised a second clutch of 4. One pair lost the second clutch apparently to raccoons. One pair did not re-nest.

Nesting trays were placed on bridges where pairs of peregrines were observed since most bridges do not contain suitable ledges for nesting.

## BALD EAGLE

The eagle hacking project produced some interesting findings in its second year. The mortality rate of hacked raptors is dependent on several factors, the most important of which concerns eagle activities immediately after release. In 1983 endangered species biologist hacked 6 Canadian eaglets. None returned to the tower or feeding stations. The goal of the 1984 program was to improve eagle use of the tower and tower area by altering habitat, reducing levels of disturbance, and more accurately determining the proper age of release. Feeding platforms were built, adjacent woodlands were thinned and perches created. Time spent caring for the birds was reduced and all preparations for release were done at night to minimize stress in handling. Three different releases were made and timed to specific behavior and feather development stages. All disturbances within the release area were reduced.



Ten eagles were hacked in 1984. Eagle use of the tower increased by 100% in 1984. The average stay in the area of the tower increased from 9 days/bird to 40 days/bird in 1984. The number of days birds used fish carcasses on the



## Bald Eagle Continued

feeding platforms and the tower increased to an average of 37 days/bird in 1984. Throughout their stay in the tower area, all birds used the thinned forest area, the feeding platforms and perches on the tower. Use was greatest in the period just after release. Approximately 90% of all telemetry locations were within the area restricted from human use in 1984 while approximately 60% of all locations were in the same area in 1983.

The timing of release and elimination of disturbance at the site greatly influenced eagle fidelity to the tower and tower area. Man-made perches and controlled access to perching areas were particularly important in the period just after release.

Nesting eagle activity in South Jersey was monitored again this year. Continued reproductive failure of bald eagles at New Jersey's active nest necessitated intensive management to ensure that young are successfully produced. Management efforts to improve nesting success have centered on egg transfers, incubation of eggs at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service facilities, introduction of two-week old eaglets and banding. Nest management was implemented in 1982. One chick was raised in 1982, two chicks in 1983 and one chick in 1984.

Efforts to protect the nest resulted in the condemnation and state acquisition of 1300 acres of the Bear Swamp. The acquisition is needed to prevent disturbance from development or other incompatible uses.

Observation of the Bear Swamp nest began in mid-February and continued to July. Incubation was first observed on March 1. On April 16, one egg was replaced and taken to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and incubated. The egg from the nest and an egg from a captive breeding program hatched on March 31. Both chicks were placed in the nest on April 16. After one week, only one chick was seen in the nest, yet ground searches around the nest did not locate any eagle remains. The remaining chick was banded on May 9 and fledged shortly thereafter.

## PROTECTION FOR OUR ENDANGERED SPECIES

New Jersey's rare animals—corn snakes, tiger salamander and bog turtles—are in trouble. Over-collecting by the pet trade has jeopardized their survival in N.J. They will be afforded greater protection, however, due to the prohibition of the possession of these animals, except under special circumstances. Regardless of where obtained, these species must either be legally registered with the state or transferred out-of-state after January 1, 1985. Endangered animals previously on a permit can also be retained. Another exception will be made for those who meet the demanding criteria for an endangered species permit. The enforcement of this regulation will help to put teeth into efforts to protect our native wildlife.

Previously some of these animals could be purchased in pet stores. As long as they were reported to be supplied from out-of-state, a permit was granted. This will no longer be approved after the New Year. Penalties for illegal possession could range up to \$3,000.00 per animal per day. Anyone wishing more information should contact the Endangered Species Program in Trenton.

## OSPREY MANAGEMENT

Efforts to maintain the successful restoration of the endangered osprey consisted of two aerial surveys, banding all accessible young and the maintenance and construction of new nesting structures.

Aerial surveys were done in mid-April and mid-May and 108 active nests were found. Statewide, 122 chicks were produced from 105 known-outcome nests. Productivity was 1.16 chicks per known outcome nest. This compares to 1.22 in 1983 and 1.15 in 1982. Productivity figures indicate the osprey population in New Jersey is at least stabilizing and its status will likely be changed from endangered to threatened.

Fifteen new nesting structures were built prior to the 1984 nesting season. Five structures were placed along the Delaware Bay and the remaining ten were placed along the Atlantic Coast. Three of the Delaware Bay structures were placed by the Cumberland County Conservation League.

## CLIFF SWALLOW

The number of cliff swallows found nesting in 1984 was nearly the same as the 1983 estimate. Twenty-three more swallow nests were counted this year thanks to the location of 3 new colonies which may have been active last year but weren't included in the total. All of the newly located colonies were in Sussex County. The Lambertville colony which accounts for nearly 50% of the total population increased by 24%. This increase was offset by a similar decrease in the Bulls Island colony. The 3 Delaware River colonies account for over 85% of the nesting cliff swallows in the state.

House sparrows remain a serious problem in all inland colonies. They successfully competed with cliff swallows for nesting spots and occupy the mud flask-shaped nests that cliff swallows build. They have been observed destroying the swallow eggs as well. The colonies along the Delaware are perhaps inaccessible to house sparrows and thus most successful.

## BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING Continued from Page 5

can accumulate and very few seeds fall to the ground. You should clean all feeders regularly; at least once a year.

Backyard feeding can also bring birds within easy reach of the neighborhood cats. If you own cats be sure to equip them with a bell collar.

Finally, there is the problem of squirrels. A squirrel or two at your feeder can double or triple your bird seed bill. Unfortunately, there is not much you can do to dissuade these persistent rodents. Usually, they will figure out some way around, through, or over whatever obstacle you put in their path. You can try baffles, cones of sheet metal or plastic which fit around the pole of elevated feeders. They can be fairly effective only if the feeder is not within jumping distance of a tree or roof top. In that case you can get a similar baffle which fits over the roof of the feeder. Suspending the feeder on a wire attached to swivels at either end requires that the squirrel make its way to the feeder by slithering along upside-down; they'll do it if they're hungry. Again, the tubular feeders are the best. Their small perches and difficulty of getting more than one seed at a time can frustrate all but the most persistent squirrel.



## 'GO WILD' at Tax Time

Continued from Page 1

projects and investigations into habitat requirements of the State's birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. (Details of some of those projects are found in this issue of *Nongame News*).

Habitat protection, enhancement and development programs throughout the State account for another 20% of the budget. This includes review and assessment of environmental impact statements and development and implementation of management plans to benefit wildlife on public lands. Money is set aside for acquisition of easements, of deed restrictions—those less-than-permanent solutions to protecting habitat on expensive land. (Permanent acquisitions are not always affordable, or desirable, solutions to habitat protection.)

A new program will be funded this year, the Check-off Grant Program. Up to \$1,000 will be allocated on a matching basis for projects that benefit the State's wildlife. Habitat protection and enhancement, education and research are among the areas of funding.

Public services comprise an additional 26% of the budget. Development and printing of literature and other public information is included here. Extension services, technical information, advice to the homeowner and other valuable public services are provided through the ENSP.

Contributions to the Natural Heritage program (administered by DEP's Natural Lands Management Program) and administration comprise the remainder of the budget.

Individuals and groups are needed to help spread infor-

mation about the tax check-off. If you'd like to put a box of fliers out where you work, bank or conduct other business, please let us know! If you'd like to distribute bumper stickers as well, we're happy to supply a stack. Contact Mike Valent to offer your help (CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625).

## "ADOPT AN EAGLE" PROGRAM

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student body was involved in gathering pledges from businesses, parents and interested local residents. The students are presently pursuing pledges to acquire a second eagle.

The Endangered and Nongame Species Program is encouraging other schools in New Jersey to join in the "Adopt an Eagle" Program, and will provide any information required to get a program started.

Schools raising the \$3,500.00 necessary to sponsor a bald eagle will be invited to the site in Cumberland County where the eagles will be raised this July, and a colored leg band inscribed with a name chosen by the school will be placed on an eagle before it is released. The eagle will also carry a metal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service numbered band, which will be dedicated to the school. A videotape of the birds will be made at the site and will be presented to the sponsoring schools as a permanent record of their cooperation in helping to save New Jersey's bald eagle population.

For additional information, contact: Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program, CN 400, Trenton, NJ, 08625, phone number (609) 292-9400.

### ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROGRAM

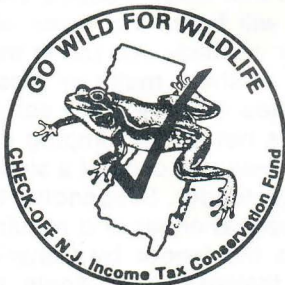
Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife

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Endangered and Nongame Species Program